



Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

May 2023

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit



Part I Total Crime

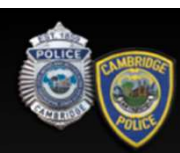
An analysis of serious crime statistics for May of 2023 points to a sizable increase of 25% in the Part One index total for Cambridge when compared with the same time frame in 2022. During the first five months of this year, there were 1,185 serious crimes reported in the City. For the same time period in 2022, the combined total for Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny & Auto theft was 946 incidents. When measured against the five-year average, a 30% rise in the crime index has been registered.

Further analysis of the crime totals for the first five months of 2023 indicates that violent crimes recorded a 29% increase to start the year when compared with last year. Similarly, property crimes rose 25% with 198 additional crimes reported when compared with the first five months of 2022. There were zero homicides, 20 rapes, 47 robberies, and 114 aggravated assaults recorded in the first 149 days of 2023.

The 96% increase in shoplifting, the 41% rise in aggravated assault, and the 74% increase in bicycle larcenies when compared with 2022 are the key trend indicators observed so far in 2023 that have driven the upward curve in the crime index for May. Conversely, larceny from the person decreased by 19% from 43 to 35 incidents and larcenies from motor vehicles dropped 10% from 167 thefts to 151 when comparing the first five months of 2023 with that of 2022.

When analyzing the serious crime totals of May of 2023 versus the previous month of April 2023, there has been a sizeable increase of 18% in the number of index incidents with 41 more crimes reported.

	<u>4 Week Snapshot</u>			<u>Year to Date</u>			<u>Five Year</u>	
	4/4/23 - 5/1/22	5/2/23 - 5/29/23	Change	2022	2023	Change	Avg	Change
Total Violent Crime	33	50	52%	140	181	29%	118	53%
Total Property Crime	193	217	12%	806	1004	25%	794	26%
Total Part I Crime	226	267	18%	946	1185	25%	912	30%

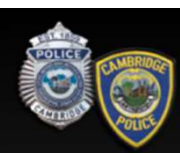


Part I Property Crime

Analysis of property crime totals through May of 2023 reveals a 25% increase when measured against the 2022 totals through May and a 26% rise above the five-year average of 794.

A majority of the property crime categories below recorded inclines when measured against the first five months of 2022, most notably a 96% jump in shopliftings (up 97 incidents), a 74% surge in bike thefts (up 81 incidents), and a 29% increase in thefts from residences (up 34). Meanwhile, larcenies from motor vehicles dropped 10% (down 16 thefts) and housebreaks decreased by 7% (down 5 incidents).

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date			Five Year	
	4/4/23 - 5/1/22	5/2/23 - 5/29/23	Change	2022	2023	Change	Avg	Change
Burglary	14	18	29%	92	88	-4%	78	13%
Commercial Break	5	4	-20%	20	21	5%	21	0%
Housebreak	9	14	56%	72	67	-7%	57	18%
Larceny	170	186	9%	668	864	29%	680	27%
Larceny (Misc)	3	6	100%	29	27	-7%	19	42%
Larceny from Building	14	8	-43%	87	80	-8%	77	4%
Larceny from MV	25	37	48%	167	151	-10%	148	2%
Larceny from Person	9	4	-56%	43	35	-19%	42	-17%
Larceny from Residence	22	33	50%	116	150	29%	134	12%
Larceny of Bicycle	53	62	17%	109	190	74%	140	36%
Larceny of Plate	3	3	0%	7	20	186%	7	186%
Larceny of Services	3	1	-67%	9	13	44%	5	160%
Shoplifting	38	32	-16%	101	198	96%	107	85%
Auto Theft	9	13	44%	46	52	13%	36	44%
Total Property Crime	193	217	12%	806	1004	25%	794	26%



Part I Violent Crime

From January 1st to May 29th of 2023, there were 181 violent crimes recorded in Cambridge, 41 incidents (+29%) above last year's total of 140 incidents through the same time and 63 incidents above the 118 crimes forecasted for the first five months of the year.

There have been 20 rapes reported in Cambridge thus far in 2023, up by five incidents compared to the same time in 2022. The rapes reported in 2023 have been categorized as five domestic incidents, six acquaintance incidents, eight contact scenarios, and one blitz assault.

The trend observed during the past couple years of a high percentage of aggravated assaults and street robberies occurring in Central Square and on peripheral side streets may slowly be returning with the warm weather, after a first-quarter lull in activity in that area. So far, five months into the year, 33 of the 114 aggravated assaults and eight of the 28 street robberies have been reported in the Central Square area.

For only the fourth time in 20 years, no murders were reported in Cambridge in 2022 and this trend has continued through May of 2023. The last murder in Cambridge took place on March 27th, 2021, on Pemberton St. It remains under investigation.

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date			Five Year	
	4/4/23 - 5/1/22	5/2/23 - 5/29/23	Change	2022	2023	Change	Avg	Change
Homicide	0	0	IN-CALC	0	0	IN-CALC	1	-100%
Rape	5	3	-40%	15	20	33%	11	82%
Robbery	8	18	125%	44	47	7%	29	62%
Commercial Robbery	3	5	67%	9	19	111%	7	171%
Street Robbery	5	13	160%	35	28	-20%	22	27%
Aggravated Assault	20	29	45%	81	114	41%	77	48%
Total Violent Crime	33	50	52%	140	181	29%	118	53%



MURDER

No Patterns

- No murders have been reported in Cambridge in 2023 through May 29, 2023.*
- There were no murders recorded in Cambridge in 2022. This has happened only three other times in the past 20 years—in 2004, 2007, and 2010.
- In the last reported homicide in Cambridge, on Saturday 3/27/21, there was a fatal shooting that occurred at approximately 12:40 a.m. on Pemberton Street. The victim was reportedly located unconscious outside his vehicle by a passerby who called 911. The victim was transported to Mount Auburn Hospital where he later died. The victim has been identified as Xavier Louis-Jacques, 19, of Cambridge. The investigation is ongoing.
- On April 23, 2020, Jose Bermudez was arrested for the fatal daylight stabbing of 33-year-old Danilo Perez in Central Square on April 14. Bermudez and Perez were both part of the homeless community and were known to each other. Bermudez is being held without bail. This was the only homicide recorded in 2020.
- There was one murder in Cambridge in 2019. The Middlesex DA's Office and the Cambridge Police are asking for public assistance regarding the ongoing investigation into the fatal incident that occurred in the New Street area of Danehy Park around 6:30PM on the night of January 2nd, 2019. This incident is being investigated as a homicide. The preliminary investigation suggests that the victim, 60-year-old Paul Wilson, died as a result of blunt force trauma and that robbery does not appear to have been the motive.

* Please note: These figures exclude the fatal Cambridge Police officer-involved shooting of Sayed Faisal on January 4, 2023.

Percent Change*

Last 4 Weeks

0%

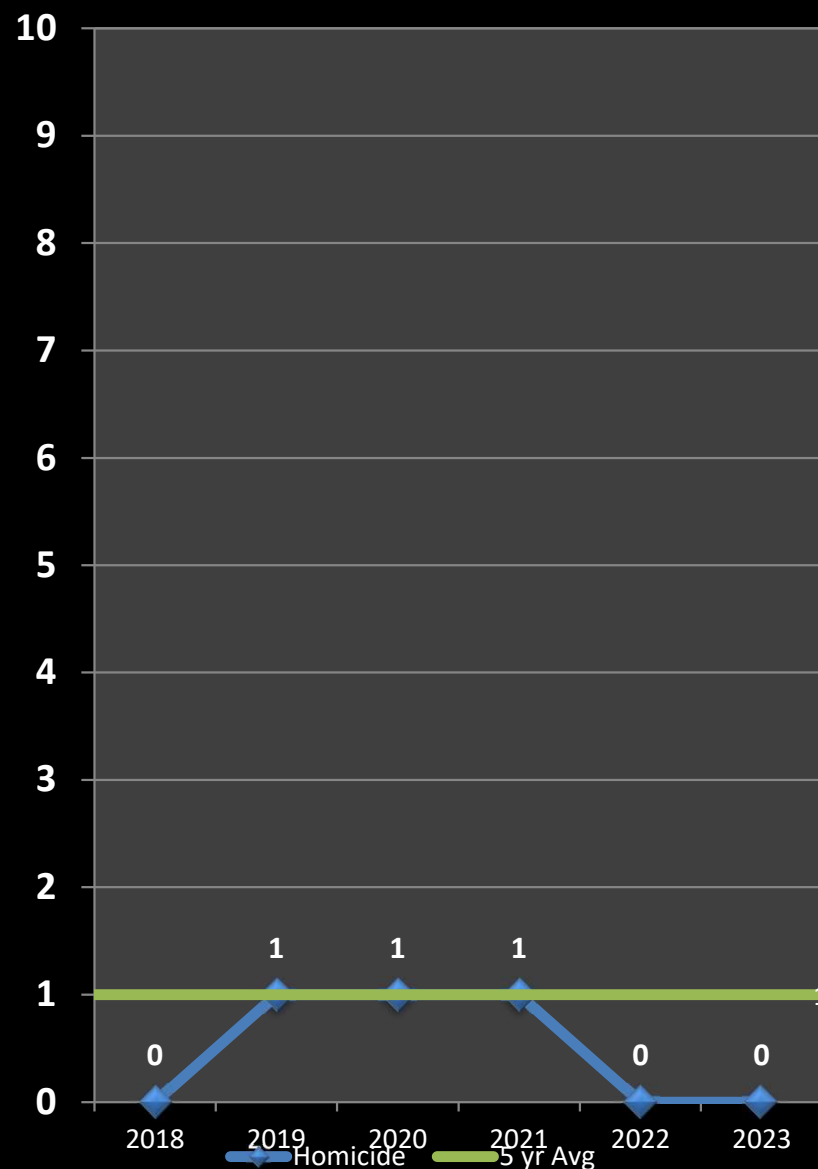
Previous Year

0%

5-Year Average

-100%

*IN -CAL: Percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to present a statistically misleading percentage.





RAPE

No Patterns

- There were 20 rapes reported in Cambridge during the first five months of 2023, which is up five incidents (33%) compared to the number reported through the same time frame in 2022.
- The rapes reported thus far in 2023 have been categorized as five domestic incidents, six acquaintance incidents, eight contact scenarios, and one blitz assault.
- One of the domestic assaults resulted in the arrest of the suspect at the time.
- The total number of reported rapes tends to fluctuate from year to year, but the number of stranger-to-stranger rapes reported each year in Cambridge—typically between one and five—remains extremely low.

Percent Change*

Last 4 Weeks

-40%

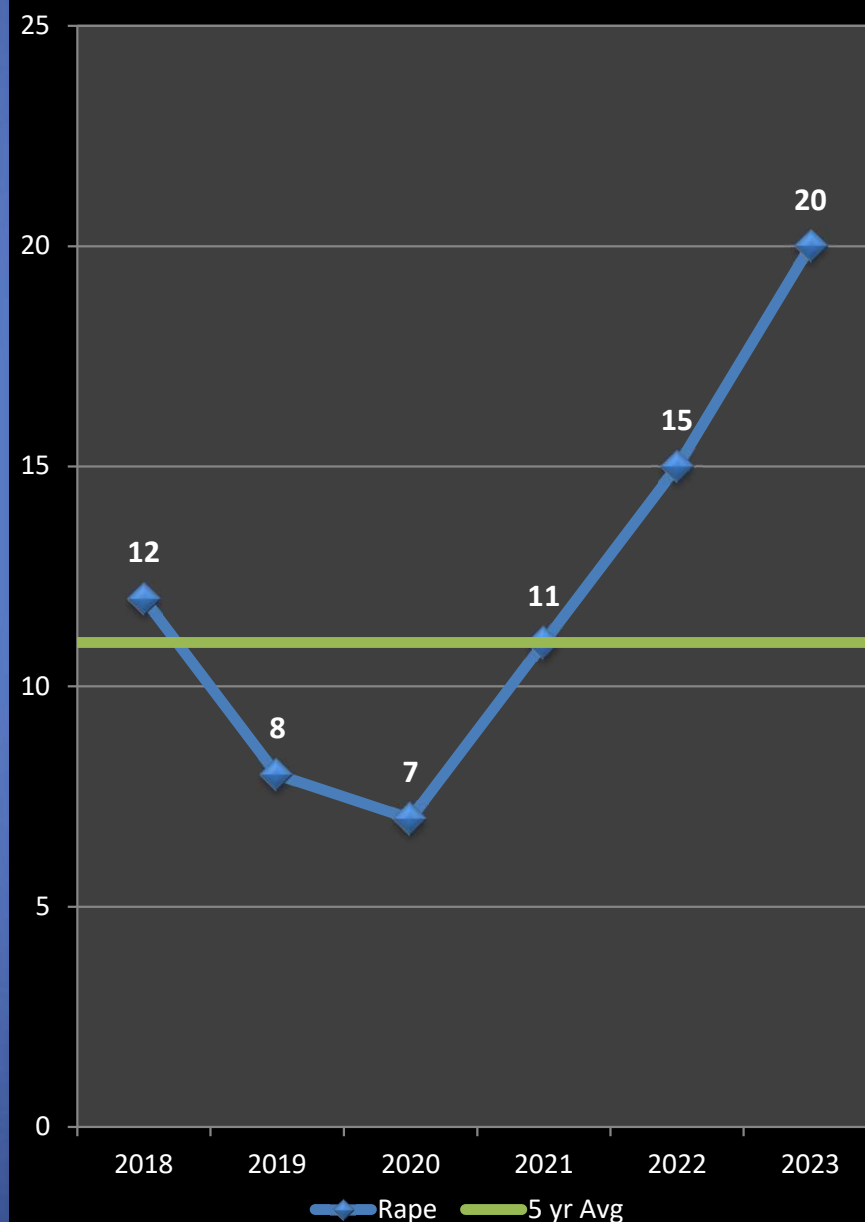
Previous Year

+33%

5-Year Average

+82%

*IN-CAL: Percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to present a statistically misleading percentage.





AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

No Patterns

- The total of 114 aggravated assaults reported through May 29th of 2023 was 33 crimes (+41%) above the total for the first five months of 2022, as well as 37 incidents (+48%) above the five-year average of 77 crimes.
- The 114 aggravated assaults reported over the first 21 weeks of this year were comprised of the following classifications: 23 unprovoked scenarios; 20 domestic altercations; 14 psychotic episodes; 12 assaults between acquaintances; 11 juvenile-related assaults; 11 traffic-and-parking incidents; 6 shop owner/patron assaults; 5 affrays/ brawls; 4 landlord/neighbor assaults; 3 drug deals gone awry; 2 each of unhoused assaults and assaults on police, and one workplace incident.
- The trend observed during the past couple years of a high percentage of aggravated assaults occurring in Central Sq and on peripheral side streets may slowly be returning with the warmer weather, after a first-quarter lull in activity in that area. Thus far in 2023, 33 of the 114 assaults citywide have been reported in Central Sq. However, unlike in 2022, other areas of the city are also seeing the emergence of hotspots this year (see map on slide 8).
- There have been two confirmed shots fired incidents in Cambridge through May 29, 2023*. The first resulted in the non-fatal shooting of two victims on Washington St and the second was a shots fired incident at Green Rose Heritage Park with casings recovered. Through the same time period in 2022, there were four shots fired incidents, none of which resulted in gunshot wounds. See map on slide 9 for more info.

* Please note: This figure excludes the fatal Cambridge Police officer-involved shooting of Sayed Faisal on January 4, 2023.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

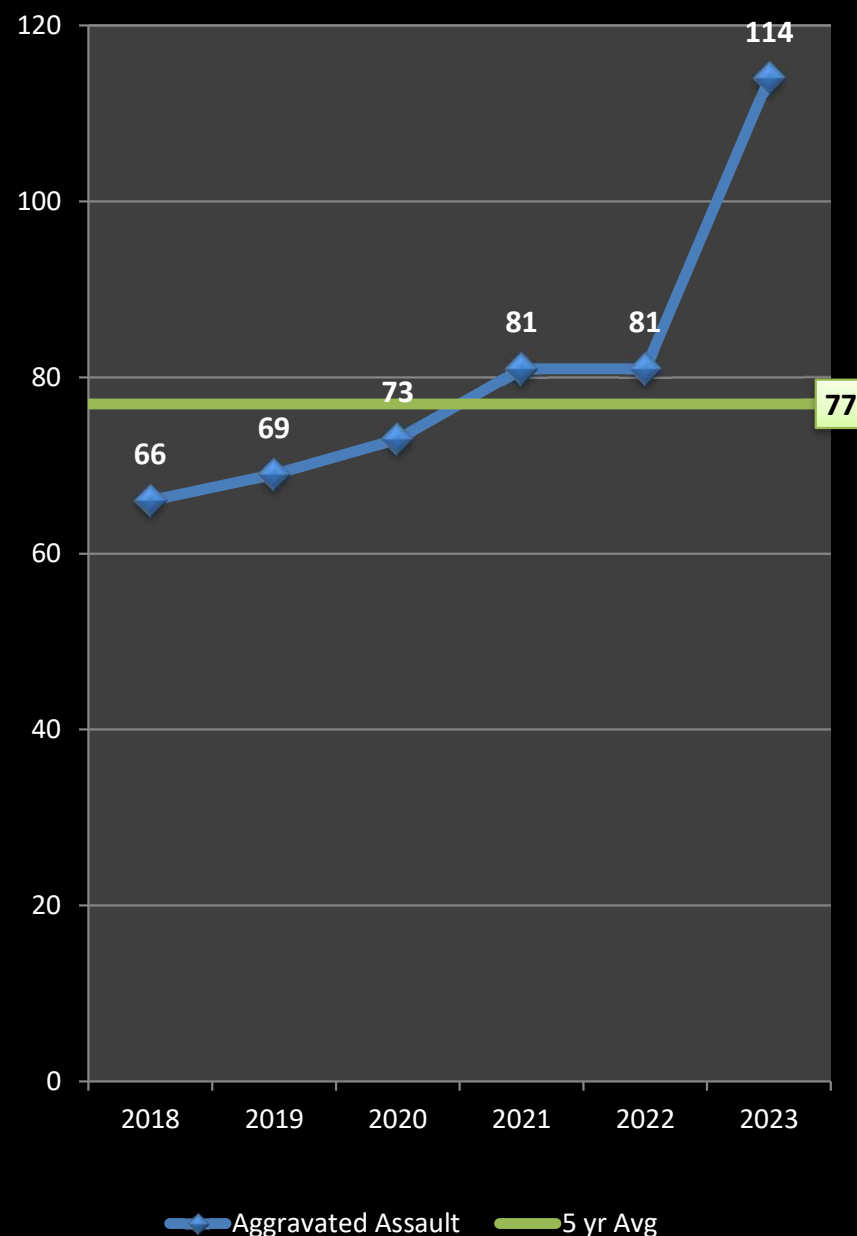
+45%

Previous Year

+41%

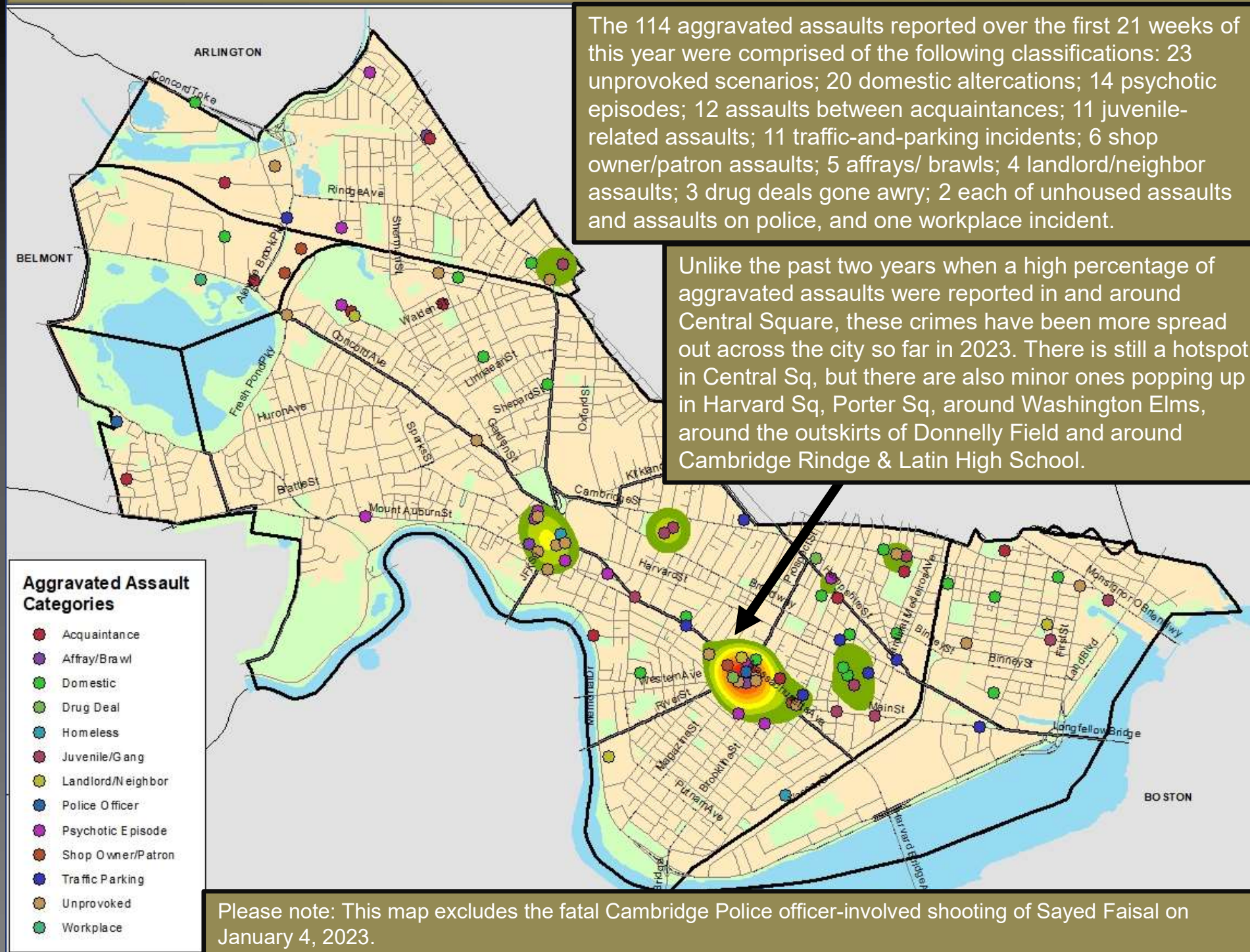
5-Year Average

+48%





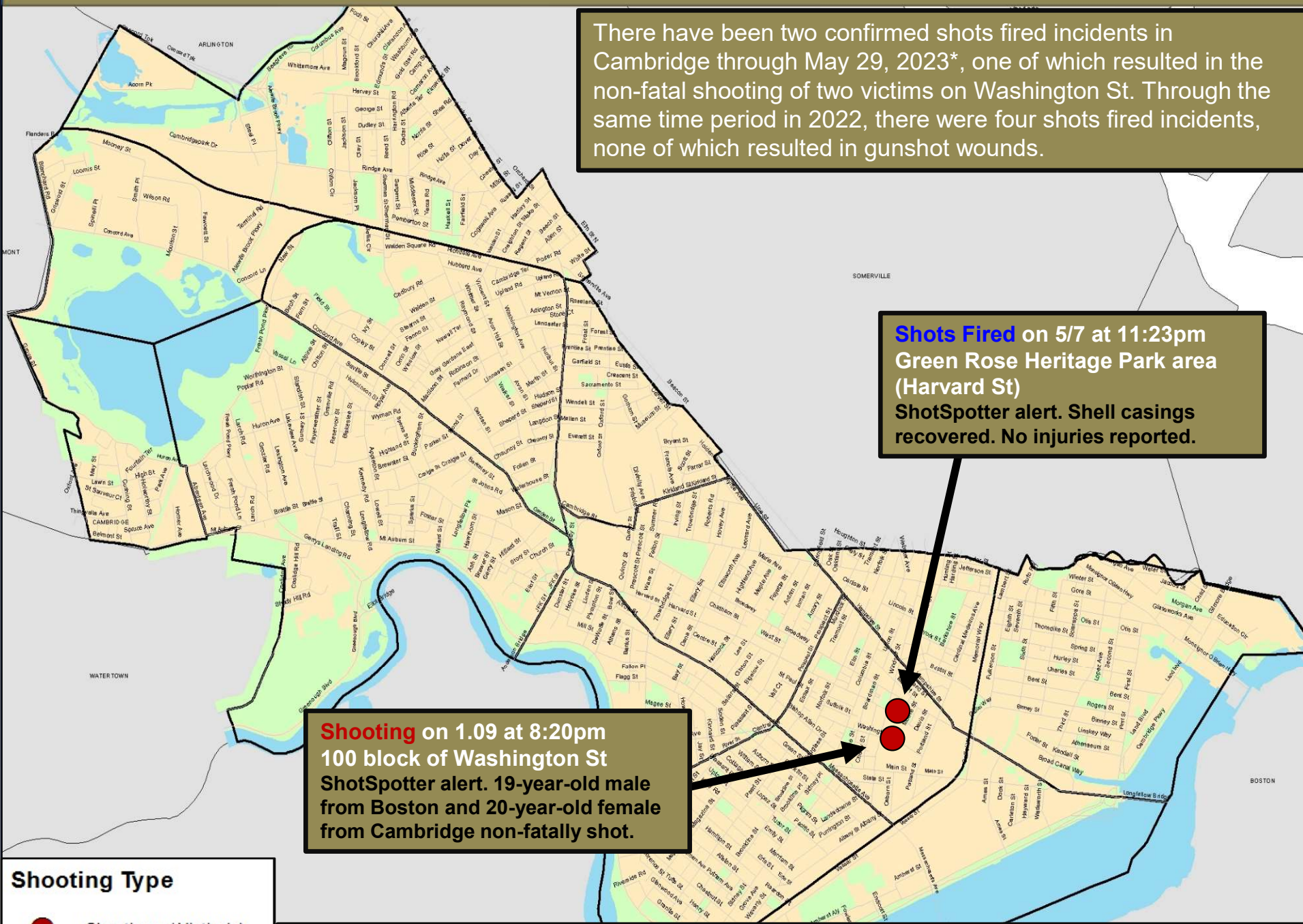
Geographic Breakdown of Aggravated Assaults: 1.1.23 – 5.29.23





Confirmed Shots Fired and Shootings in Cambridge: 1.1.23 – 5.29.23

There have been two confirmed shots fired incidents in Cambridge through May 29, 2023*, one of which resulted in the non-fatal shooting of two victims on Washington St. Through the same time period in 2022, there were four shots fired incidents, none of which resulted in gunshot wounds.



Shots Fired on 5/7 at 11:23pm
Green Rose Heritage Park area (Harvard St)
ShotSpotter alert. Shell casings recovered. No injuries reported.

Shooting on 1.09 at 8:20pm
100 block of Washington St
ShotSpotter alert. 19-year-old male from Boston and 20-year-old female from Cambridge non-fatally shot.

Shooting Type

- Shooting w/ Victim(s)
- Shots Fired (no victims)

*Please note: This figure/map excludes the fatal Cambridge Police officer-involved shooting of Sayed Faisal on January 4, 2023.



Robbery

No Patterns

- The five-year average for overall robbery in Cambridge for the first five months of the year is 29 incidents. Through May 29th of 2023, 47 robberies were recorded, which translates to a 62% increase above the projected total and a 7% incline above the 44 robberies counted through May 29th of 2022.
- Commercial robberies in 2023 rose another five incidents in May, bringing the year-to-date total to 19. This total is 111% above the nine reported through 5/29 of last year and 171% above the five-year average of seven. Part of the increase in 2023 can be attributed to a regional pattern of armed commercial robberies involving a lone male suspect with a firearm that affected both Cambridge and Boston during the first quarter. This pattern came to an end in late March with the arrest of a Cambridge male. Many of the remaining commercial robberies this year have involved escalated shoplifting incidents at retail stores and drug stores across the city.
- The 28 street robberies reported year-to-date in 2023 are down 20% from the 35 reported through this time in 2022 and are up 27% from the five-year average of 22. No street robbery patterns have emerged anywhere in Cambridge year-to-date.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

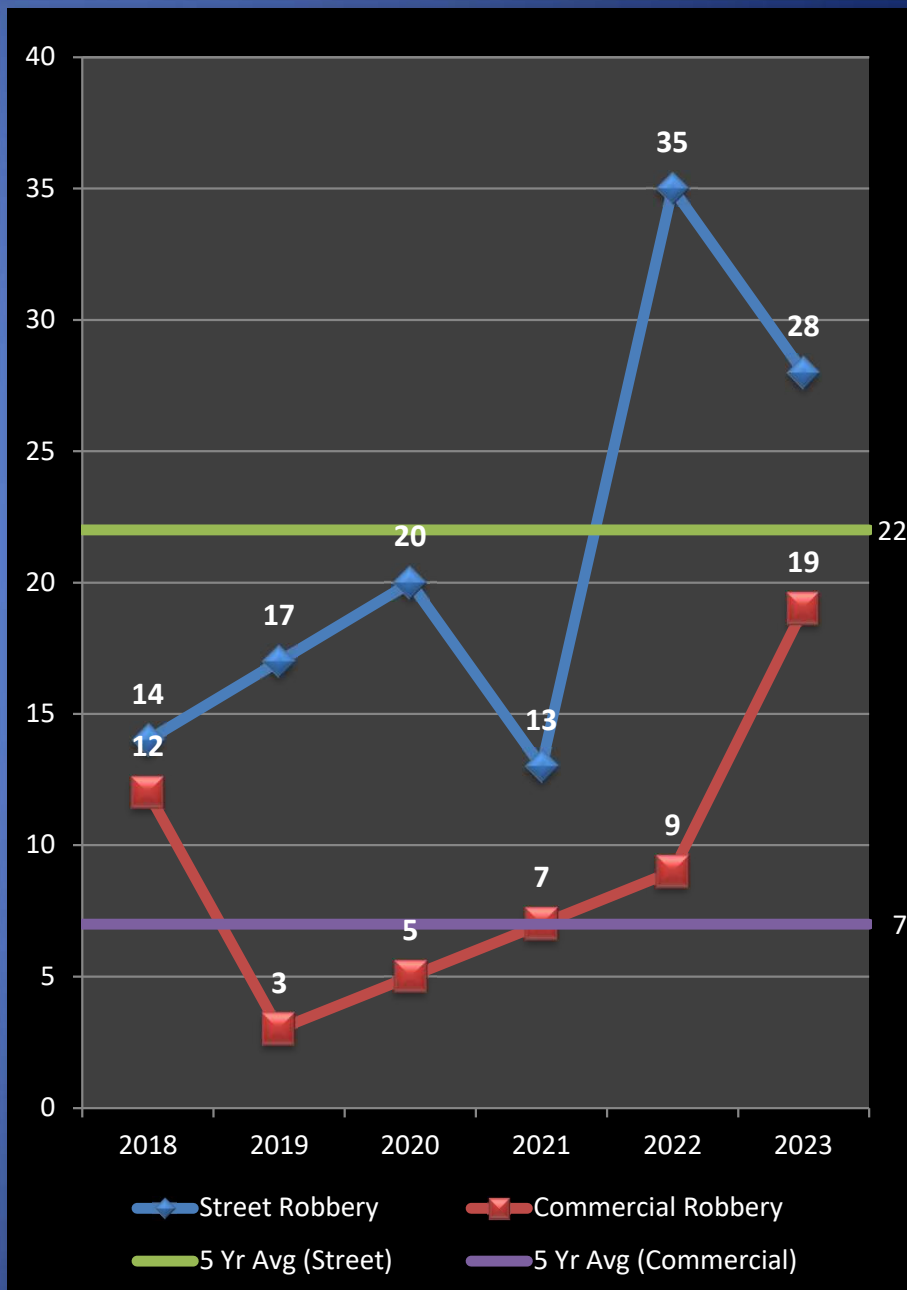
+125%

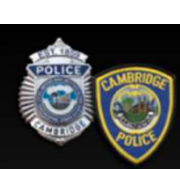
Previous Year

+7%

5-Year Average

+62%

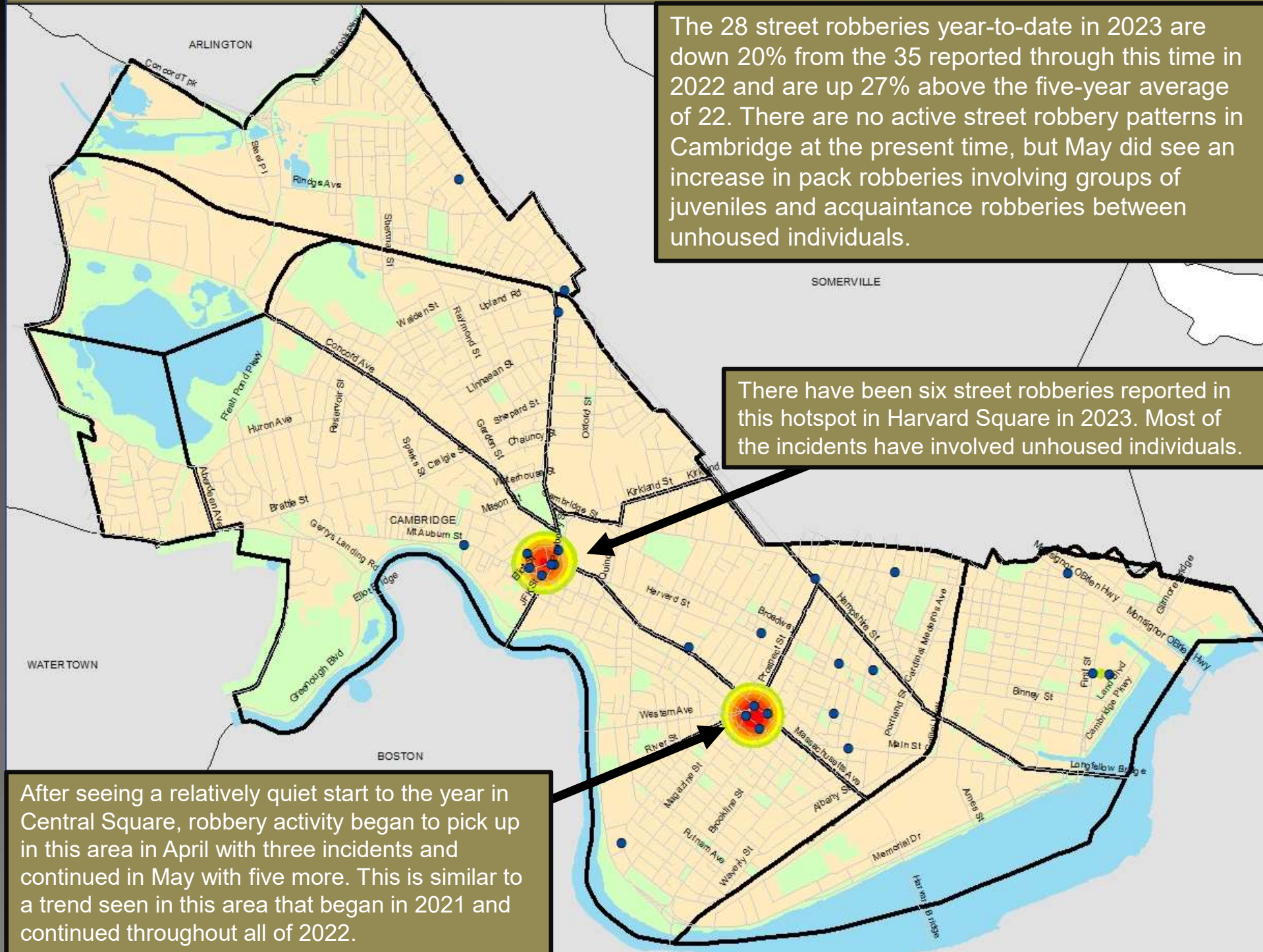


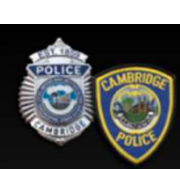


Geographic Breakdown of Street Robberies: 1.1.23 – 5.29.23

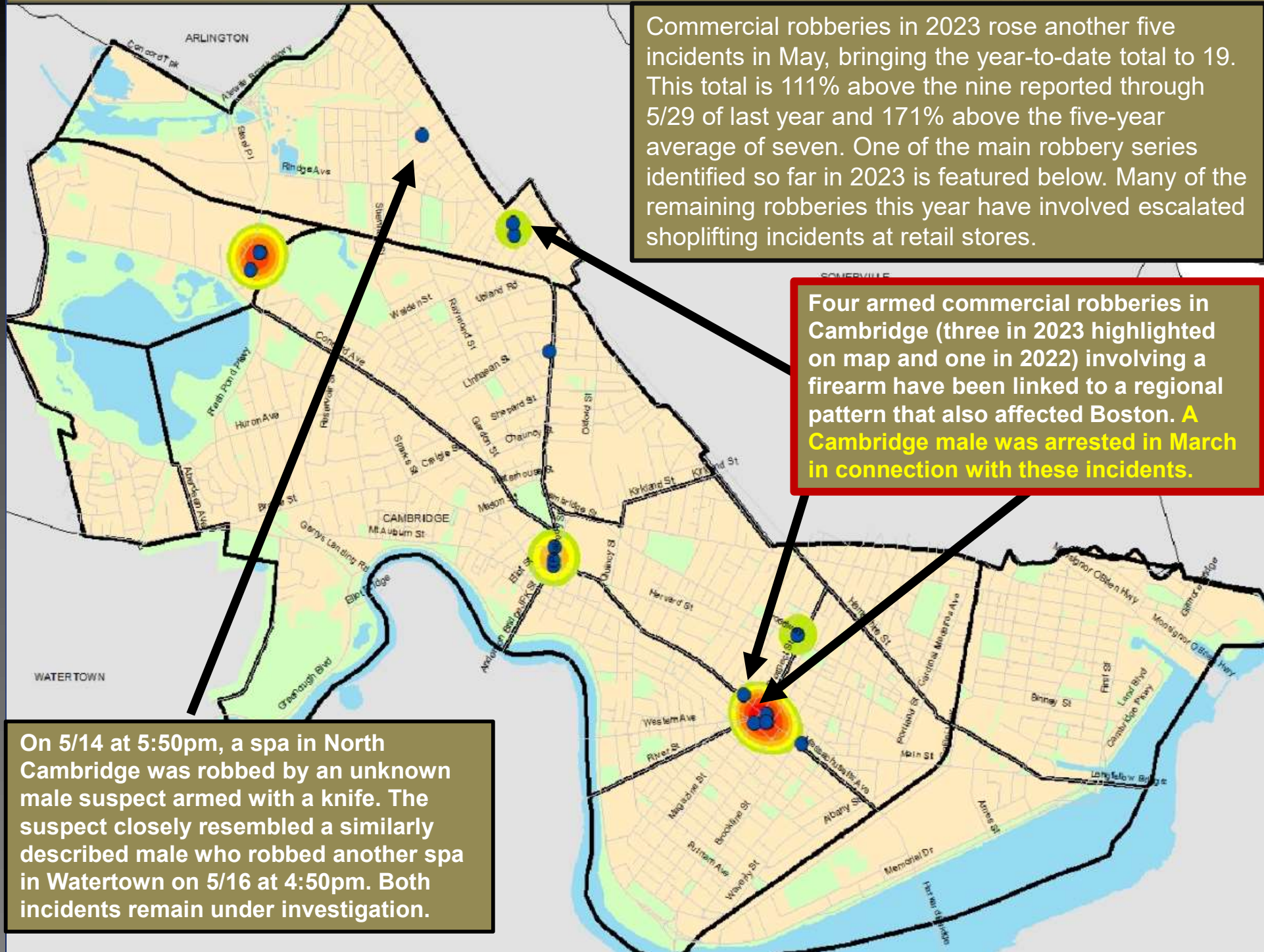
Cambridge Police BridgeStat

May 2023





Geographic Breakdown of Commercial Robberies: 1.1.23 – 5.29.23



Burglary

No Patterns

- The property index crime of burglary, the combination of residential and commercial breaks, has recorded an increase of 13% through May of 2023 when compared to the five-year average, with ten additional incidents reported above the projected total of 78 breaks. When compared with last year's total of 92 incidents for the first five months of the year, a 4% decrease has been registered (down four incidents in 2023).
- Housebreaks year-to-date in 2023 have decreased by five incidents when compared to 2022 (dropping 7% from 72 to 67). March saw the largest number of housebreaks to date in 2023 with 18 reported.
- Suspects have been arrested or otherwise identified in 14 of the housebreaks so far this year.
- Commercial breaks for the first five months of 2023 have risen by one crime (+5%), from 20 in 2022 to 21 in 2023. The breaks have been spread out across the city with no discernable patterns.
- Three individuals have been arrested in connection with three different commercial breaks year-to-date, and a suspect has been developed in a fourth.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

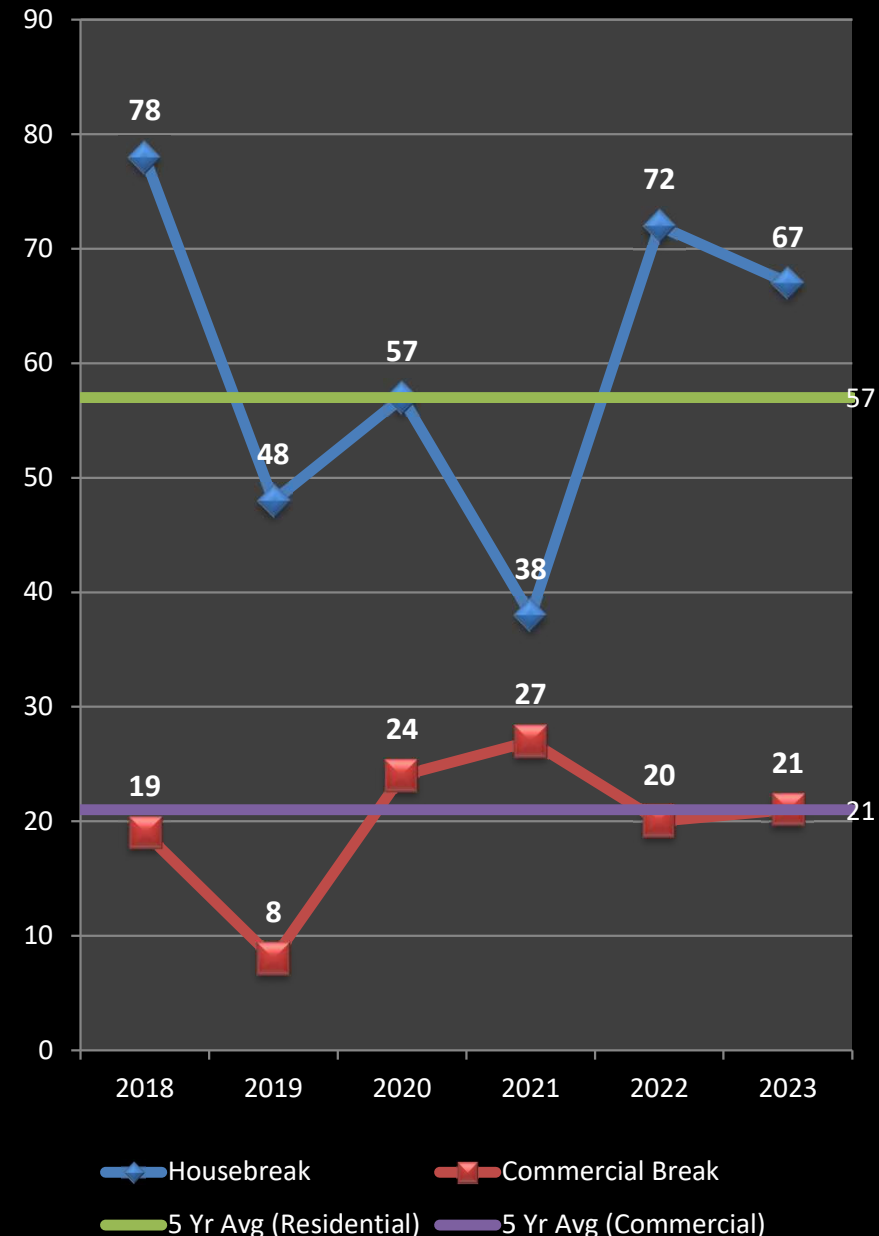
+29%

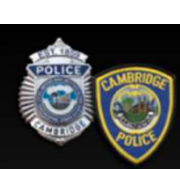
Previous Year

-4%

5-Year Average

+13%





Geographic Breakdown of Housebreaks: 1.1.23 – 5.29.23

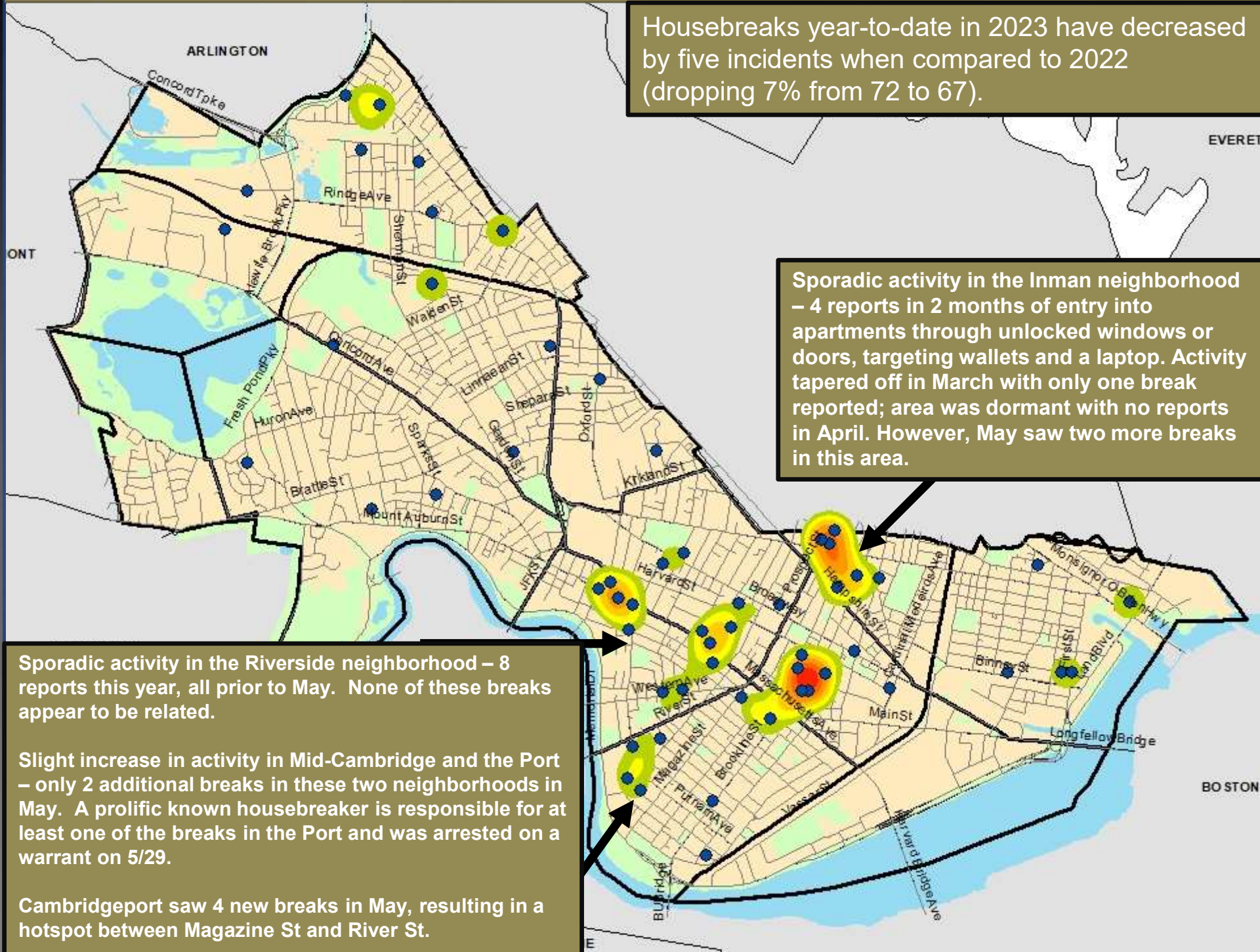
Housebreaks year-to-date in 2023 have decreased by five incidents when compared to 2022 (dropping 7% from 72 to 67).

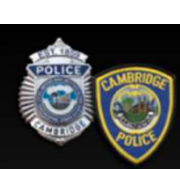
Sporadic activity in the Inman neighborhood – 4 reports in 2 months of entry into apartments through unlocked windows or doors, targeting wallets and a laptop. Activity tapered off in March with only one break reported; area was dormant with no reports in April. However, May saw two more breaks in this area.

Sporadic activity in the Riverside neighborhood – 8 reports this year, all prior to May. None of these breaks appear to be related.

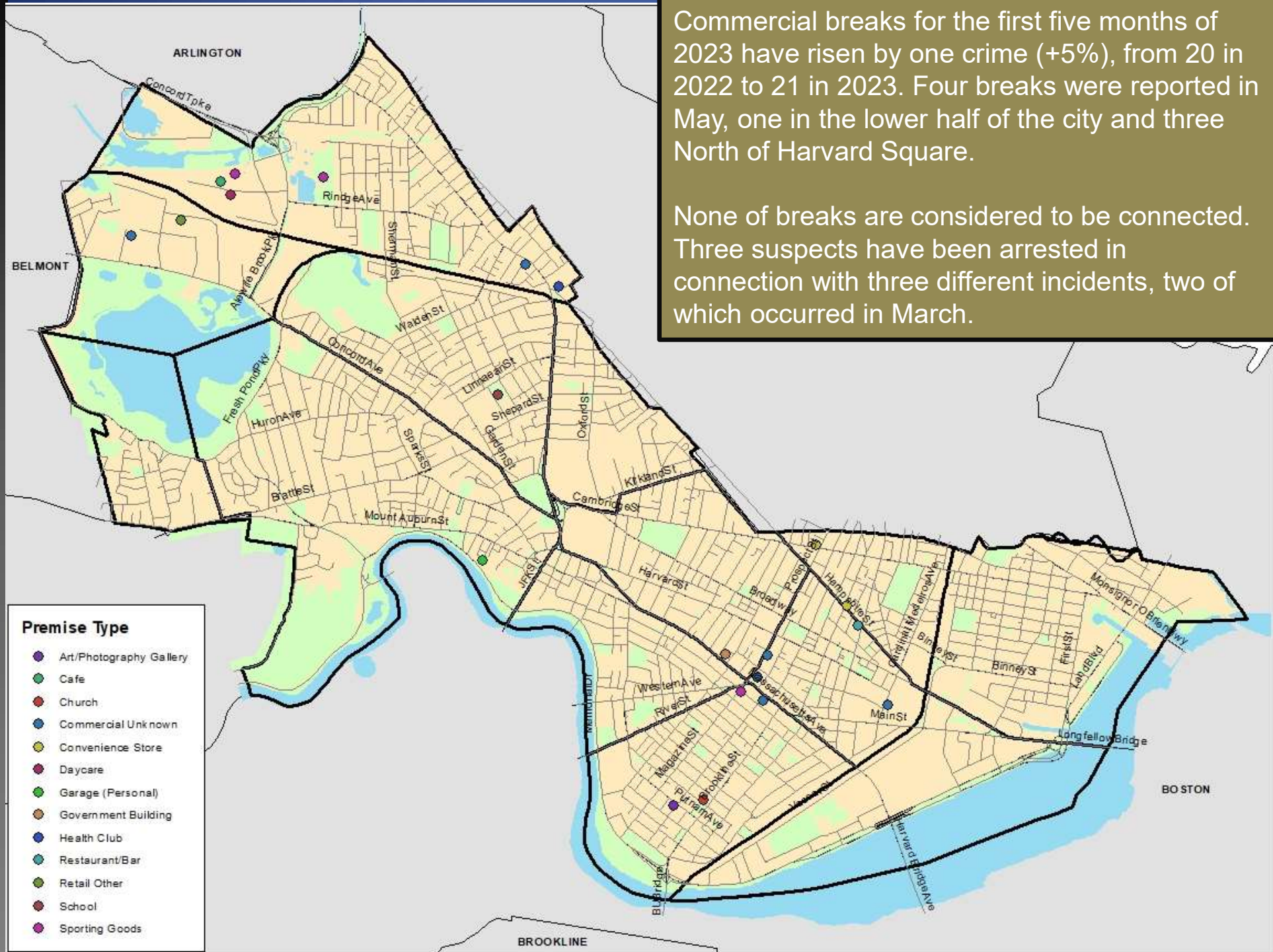
Slight increase in activity in Mid-Cambridge and the Port – only 2 additional breaks in these two neighborhoods in May. A prolific known housebreaker is responsible for at least one of the breaks in the Port and was arrested on a warrant on 5/29.

Cambridgeport saw 4 new breaks in May, resulting in a hotspot between Magazine St and River St.





Geographic Breakdown of Commercial Breaks: 1.1.23 – 5.29.23





LARCENY

No Patterns

May
2023

- Preliminary stats indicate that overall larceny through May 29th, 2023, is registering at 864 incidents, 29% above the same time frame in 2022. The total of 864 larcenies reported year-to-date in 2023 is also 27% above the 5-year average of 680 incidents.
- The larceny from motor vehicles total through 5/29 in 2023 is 151 incidents, 10% below the same time frame in 2022. The 151 thefts reported are three more than the number forecasted for 2023. The decrease in 2023 compared to last year can be attributed to a drop in catalytic converter thefts so far in 2023—in 2022, 59 were reported through 5/29/22, while only 21 have been reported so far this year.
- Through May 29, 2023, there were 35 larcenies from the person reported in Cambridge, down eight incidents (-19%) compared to the same time period in 2022. The 2023 total is 17% (seven incidents) below than the five-year average of 42. Central Square has seen the most activity so far this year with 18 incidents.
- There were 80 larcenies from buildings reported through May 29, 2023. This total is similar to last year with seven fewer thefts reported in 2023 and three additional incidents (4%) reported above the 5-year average. The increase in incidents over the last two years can be attributed to a continued trend of thefts from lockers at a local gym in Porter Sq.
- Larcenies from residences are up 34 incidents (29%) in 2023 when compared with 2022. Package thefts have made up the majority of this crime type in recent years and registered even higher than average in 2020-2022, likely due to the increased volume of deliveries during the pandemic. Package thefts have accounted for 93 (or 62%) of the 150 larcenies from residences thus far in 2023.
- There were 190 larcenies of bicycles reported through May 29th of 2023. This total is 81 incidents (+74%) above last year's total and 50 incidents (+36%) above the five-year average of 140. The warmer and less snowy weather this year when compared to 2022 may partly be a cause for the increase so far in 2023, as overall ridership may have remained higher this year.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

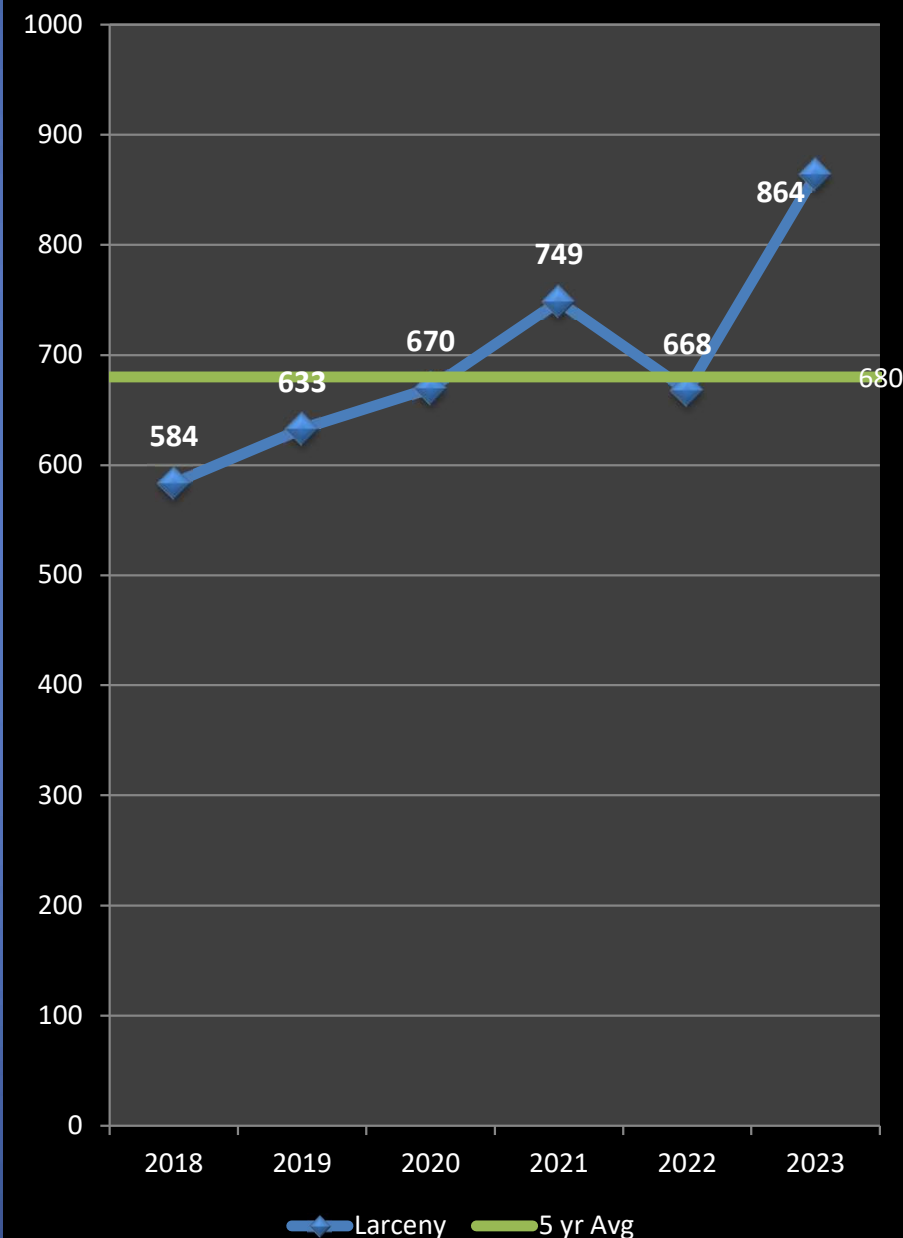
+9%

Previous Year

+29%

5-Year Average

+27%





LARCENY From MV

No Patterns

- The larceny from motor vehicle total for the first five months of 2023 is 151 incidents, which is 10% below the total for the same time period in 2022. The 151 thefts from cars reported thus far in 2023 is three incidents below the number forecasted through the first 21 weeks of 2023.
- The neighborhoods with the highest larceny from motor vehicle totals so far in 2023 are: North Cambridge (31), Cambridgeport (19), Peabody (17) and Riverside (16).
- Comparing the last four weeks (May) to the previous four (April), there was a 48% increase in larcenies from motor vehicles, with 12 additional crimes reported.
- There have been multiple larcenies from motor vehicles this year where suspects have also tampered with the ignition in an unsuccessful attempt to steal the vehicle. This can be attributed to a recent TikTok trend targeting Kia and Hyundai vehicles.
- Catalytic converter thefts became a problem in Cambridge in January of 2021. Surges continued sporadically throughout 2021 and 2022, with at least 128 reported in 2022 alone. This activity has not been as prolific in 2023, with only 21 incidents reported so far this year compared to the 59 thefts reported during the same time frame in 2022. In fact, not a single catalytic converter theft was reported stolen in Cambridge in April or May. However, it remains to be seen whether this crime type will re-emerge as the year progresses.
 - The majority of the catalytic converter thefts in Cambridge have involved 2004-2009 Toyota Priuses.
 - Thus far in 2023, the majority of the catalytic converter theft activity has been reported overnight in the upper half of Cambridge, north and west of Harvard Square.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

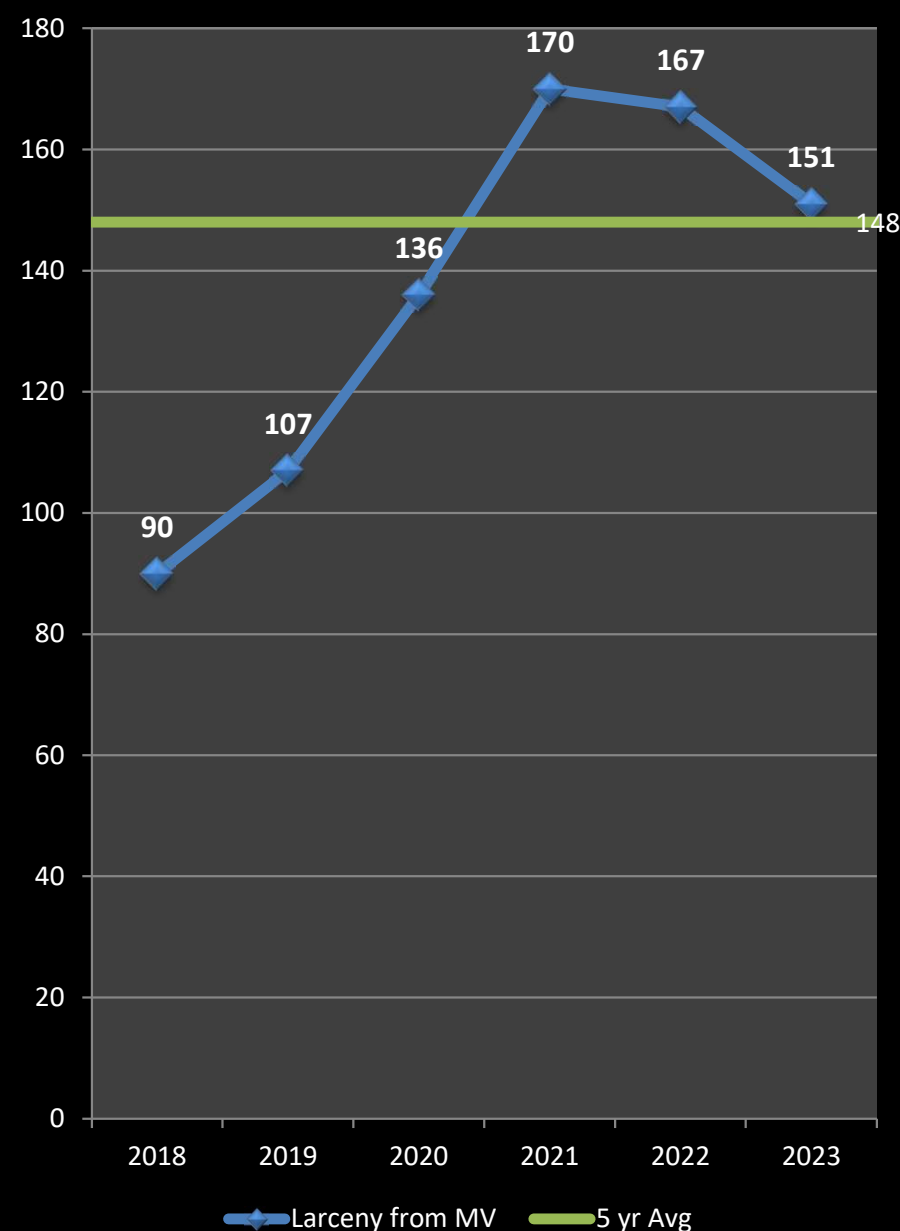
+48%

Previous Year

-10%

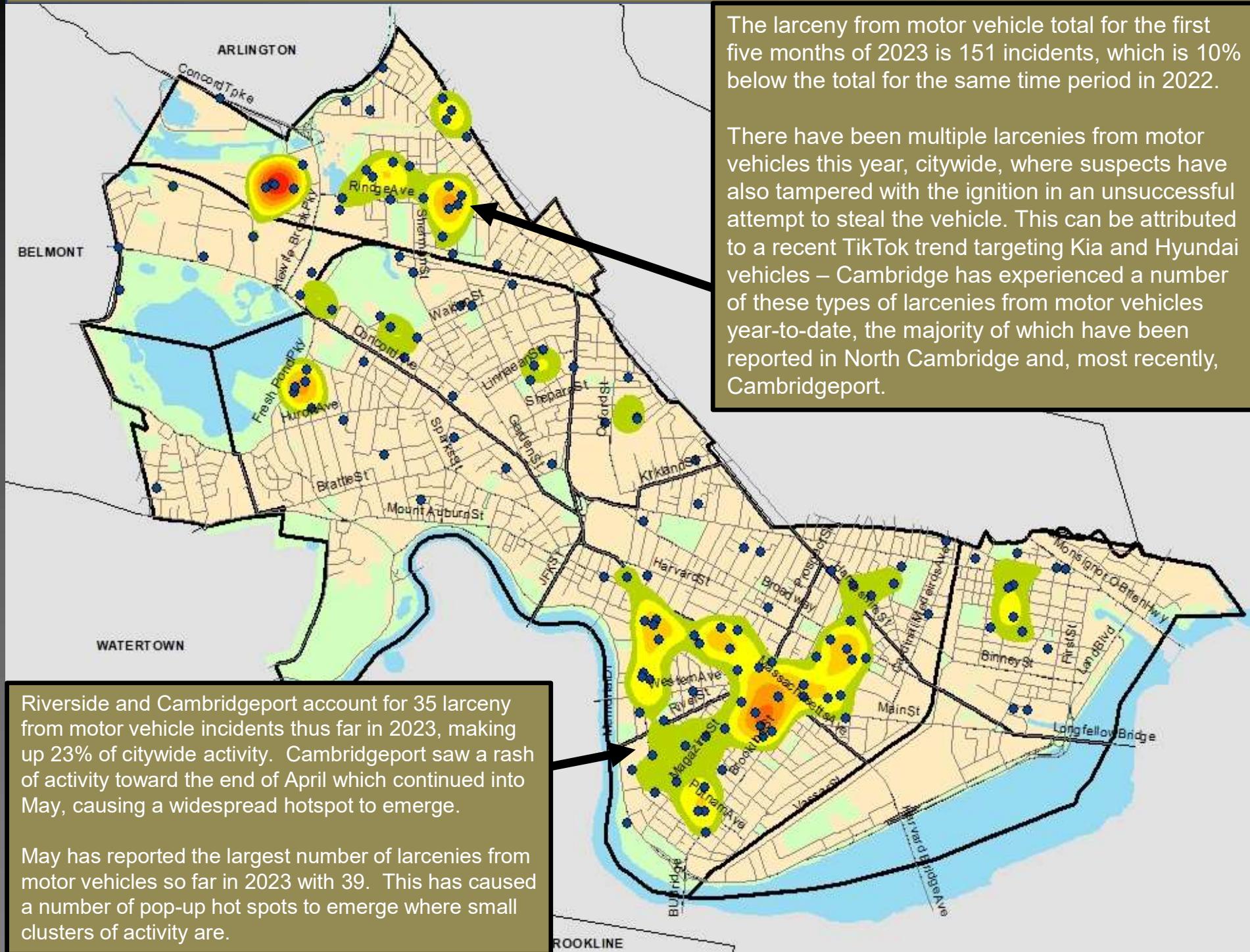
5-Year Average

+2%





Geographic Breakdown of Larceny from Motor Vehicles: 1.1.23 – 5.29.23



The larceny from motor vehicle total for the first five months of 2023 is 151 incidents, which is 10% below the total for the same time period in 2022.

There have been multiple larcenies from motor vehicles this year, citywide, where suspects have also tampered with the ignition in an unsuccessful attempt to steal the vehicle. This can be attributed to a recent TikTok trend targeting Kia and Hyundai vehicles – Cambridge has experienced a number of these types of larcenies from motor vehicles year-to-date, the majority of which have been reported in North Cambridge and, most recently, Cambridgeport.

Riverside and Cambridgeport account for 35 larceny from motor vehicle incidents thus far in 2023, making up 23% of citywide activity. Cambridgeport saw a rash of activity toward the end of April which continued into May, causing a widespread hotspot to emerge.

May has reported the largest number of larcenies from motor vehicles so far in 2023 with 39. This has caused a number of pop-up hot spots to emerge where small clusters of activity are.



LARCENY *from Person*

No Patterns

- Larcenies from the person during the first five months of 2023 decreased by eight incidents (-19%) over the same time period in 2022 and dropped by seven incidents when comparing 2023 to the five-year average of 42. Four thefts were reported in the past four weeks (May), down five from the previous four weeks (April).
- Eighteen of the 35 incidents year-to-date in 2023 took place in Central Square. The other incidents took place throughout the city, with Harvard Square registering the next largest amount with five thefts, followed by three each in the East Cambridge/CambridgeSide area and in the Cambridgeport/Riverside area, two each in the Porter Square area and the Kendall Square/MIT area, and one each in the Bay Square area and the Alewife/West Cambridge area. This crime type still has not fully returned to pre-COVID levels; in 2018 and 2019 numbers were registering in the 60s.
- In recent years, higher numbers in Central Square have mainly been due to grab-and-run situations and/or incidents that involved individuals who are unhoused whose property may have been stolen while they were asleep or otherwise distracted. Thirteen of the 18 thefts in Central Square thus far in 2023 have fallen into these categories.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

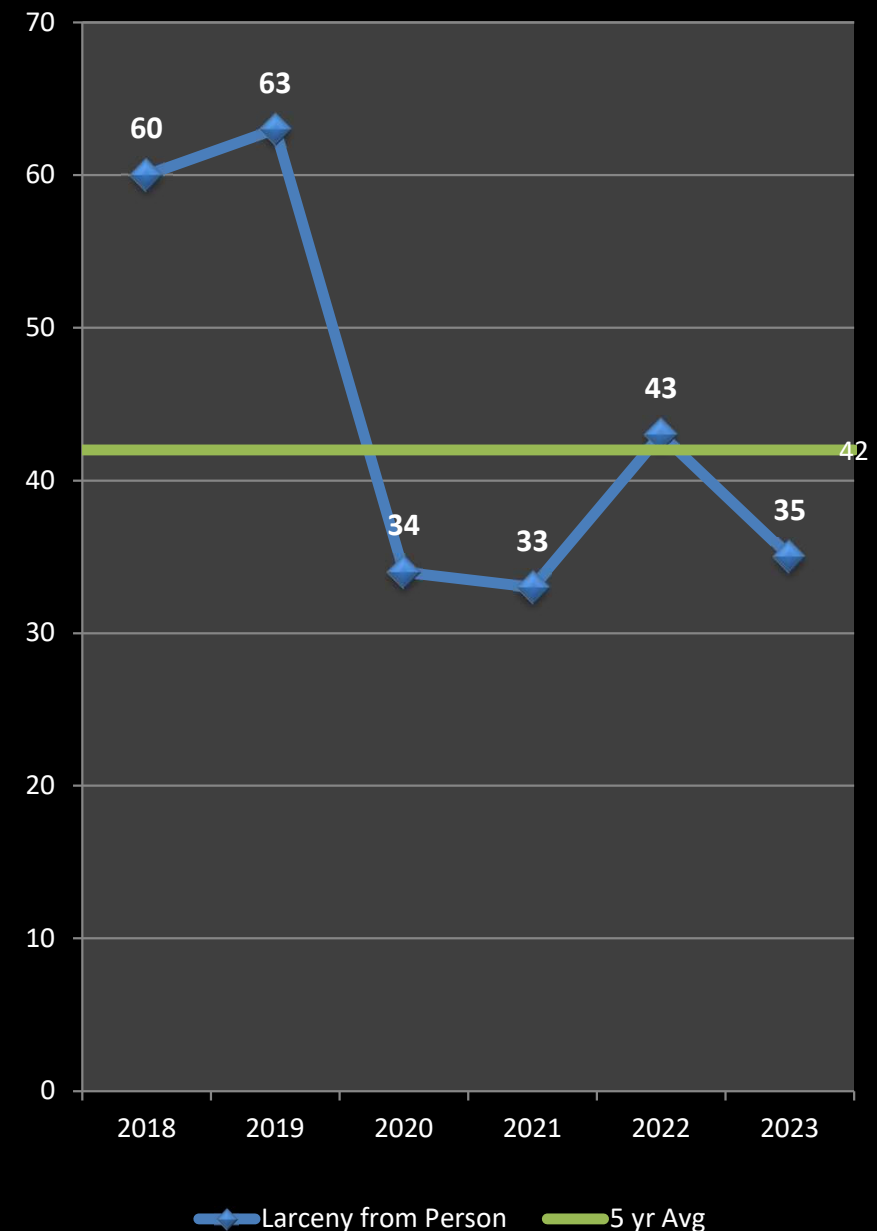
-56%

Previous Year

-19%

5-Year Average

-17%



LARCENY of Bicycle

No Patterns

- Likely due at least in part to the warmer weather and limited snow this year, 2023 has started off with an increase in bike thefts when compared to 2022. There were 190 thefts reported citywide through May 29th, 2023, compared to 109 through the same time in 2022, equaling a 74% increase this year. Additionally, the 2023 total was 36% (50 incidents) above the five-year average of 140.
- May saw an increase in bike thefts when compared with April, with nine more thefts reported in May (+17%).
- Only 57 bike thefts or 30% of all citywide thefts have occurred North of Harvard Square.
- Of the 190 bike thefts reported so far in 2023, 139 (73%) were reportedly locked at the time of the theft.

Top Neighborhoods for Bike Theft in 2023:

Neighborhood	YTD Total	% Citywide
Cambridgeport	43	23%
N. Cambridge / Mid-Cambridge	28 each	15% each
East Cambridge	19	10%
Peabody / Riverside	14 each	7% each

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

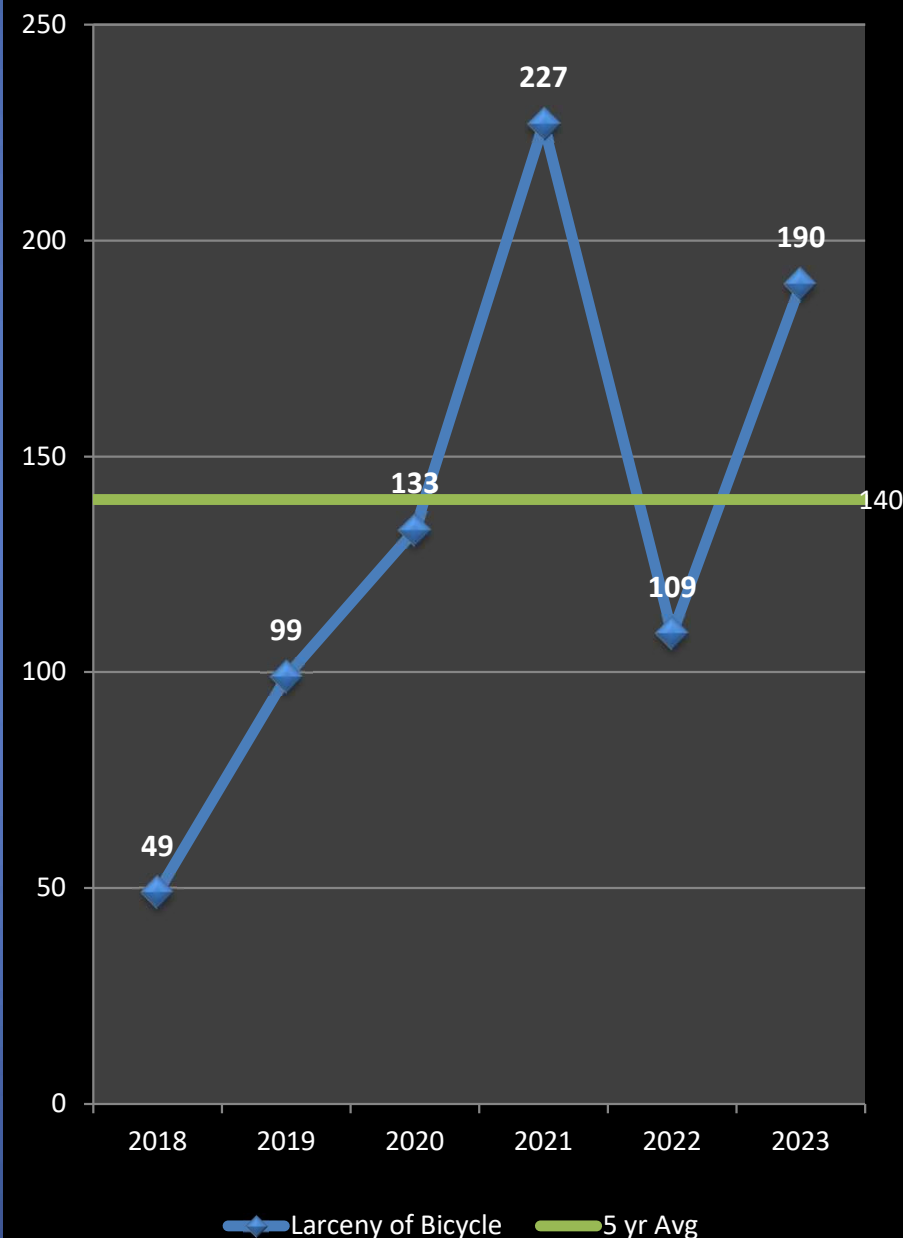
+17%

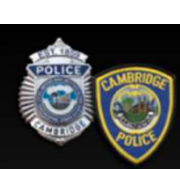
Previous Year

+74%

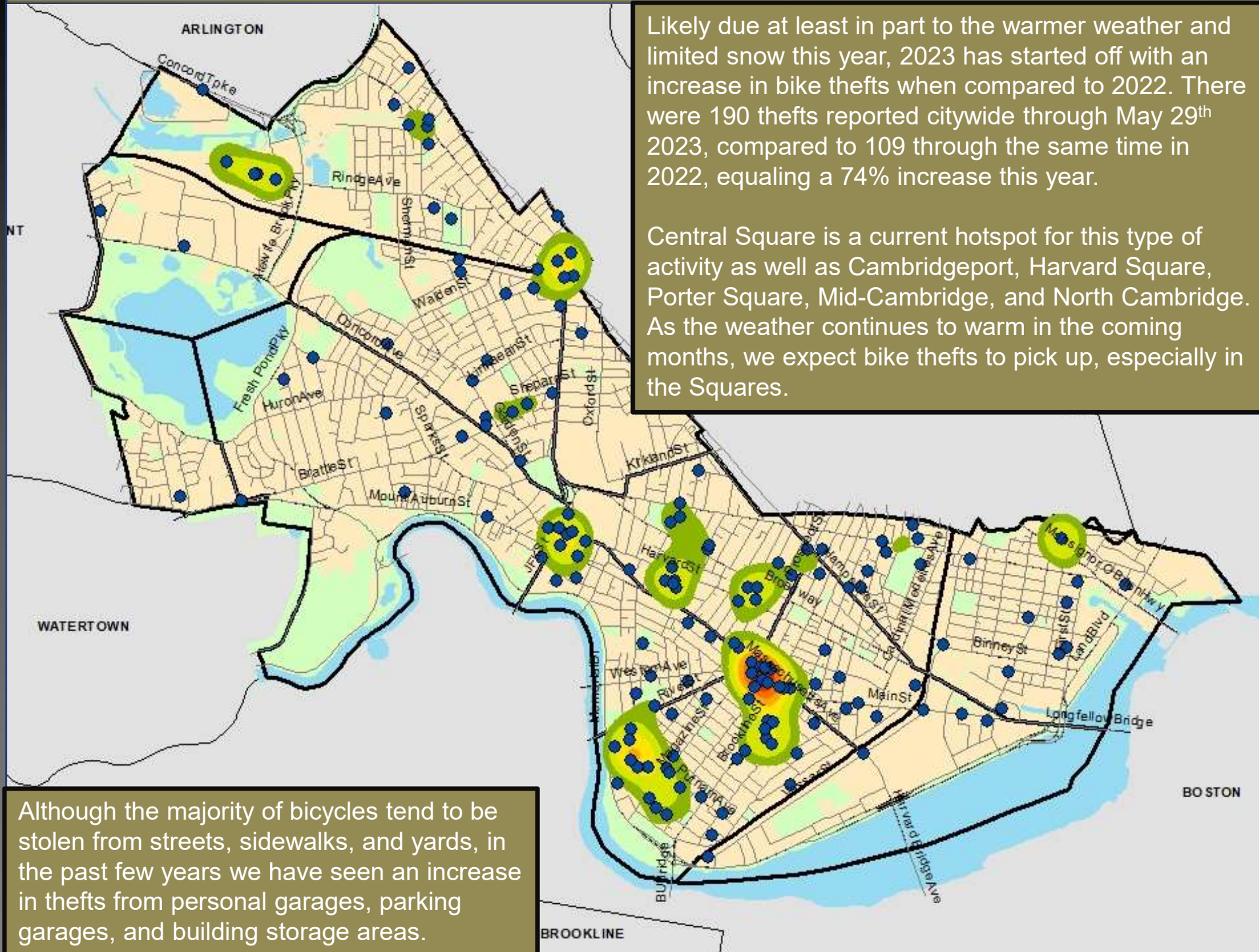
5-Year Average

+36%





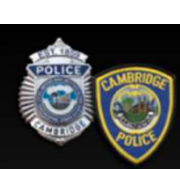
Geographic Breakdown of Larceny of Bicycles: 1.1.23 – 5.29.23



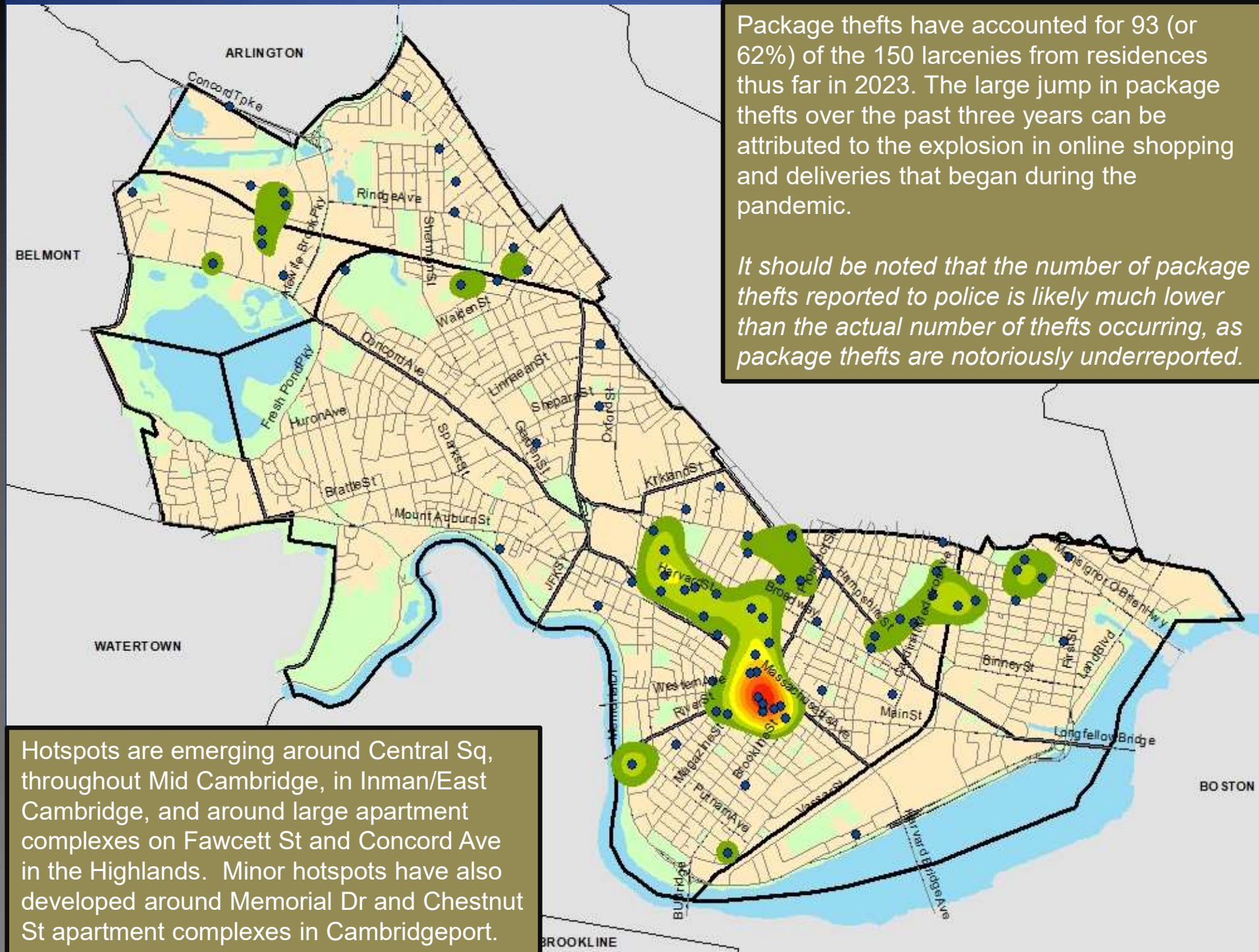
Likely due at least in part to the warmer weather and limited snow this year, 2023 has started off with an increase in bike thefts when compared to 2022. There were 190 thefts reported citywide through May 29th 2023, compared to 109 through the same time in 2022, equaling a 74% increase this year.

Central Square is a current hotspot for this type of activity as well as Cambridgeport, Harvard Square, Porter Square, Mid-Cambridge, and North Cambridge. As the weather continues to warm in the coming months, we expect bike thefts to pick up, especially in the Squares.

Although the majority of bicycles tend to be stolen from streets, sidewalks, and yards, in the past few years we have seen an increase in thefts from personal garages, parking garages, and building storage areas.

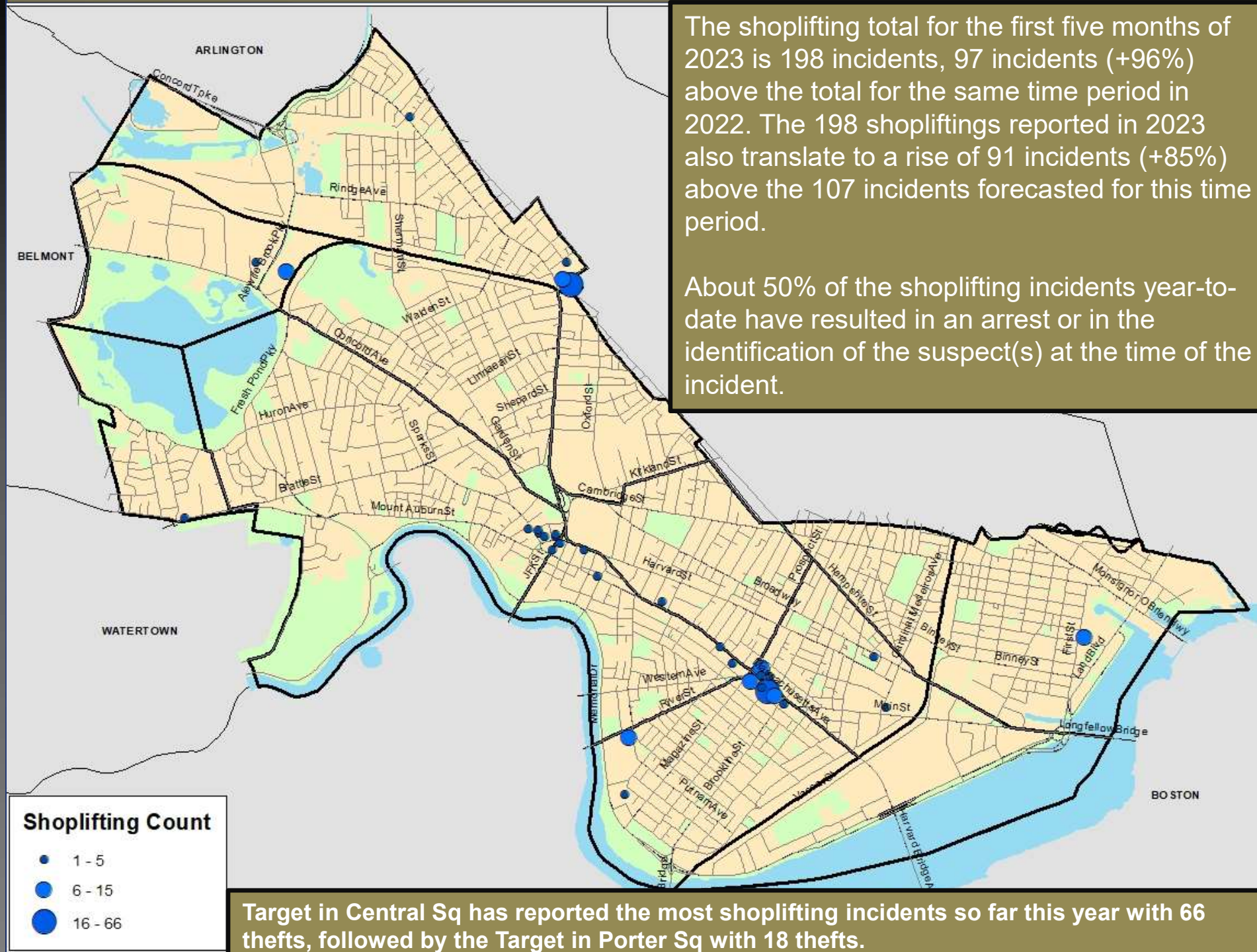


Geographic Breakdown of Package Thefts: 1.1.23 – 5.29.23





Geographic Breakdown of Shoplifting: 1.1.23 – 5.29.23





AUTO THEFT

No Patterns

- The five-year weighted average for auto thefts through May 29th is 36, and with 52 reported so far in 2023, Cambridge has experienced an increase of 44% above the expected total. Auto thefts in 2023 are also up 13% above last year's total of 46 through May 29th.
- When comparing the most recent four weeks (May) to the previous four weeks (April), auto thefts increased by 44%, with 4 more incidents reported in May than in April.
- The neighborhood breakdown for auto theft totals so far in 2023 is as follows: Cambridgeport, North Cambridge and East Cambridge – 7 each; Highlands and Inman/Harrington – 6 each; Mid-Cambridge – 5; The Port – 4; Riverside and Baldwin – 3 each; and West Cambridge and Peabody – 2 each.
- There have been 13 thefts reported so far in 2023 where the operator left the vehicle unlocked and running in order to warm up the vehicle, deliver a package, or grab food. When the victim returned, the vehicle was gone.
- There is an emerging trend in Cambridge and regionally of Kia and Hyundai thefts due to a recent TikTok trend targeting these vehicles. There have been at least nine of these thefts so far in 2023, as well as multiple breaks into these model cars, as mentioned on the Larceny from Motor Vehicle map on slide 18.
- Twenty-three of the 52 vehicles reported stolen so far in 2023 have been recovered to date.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

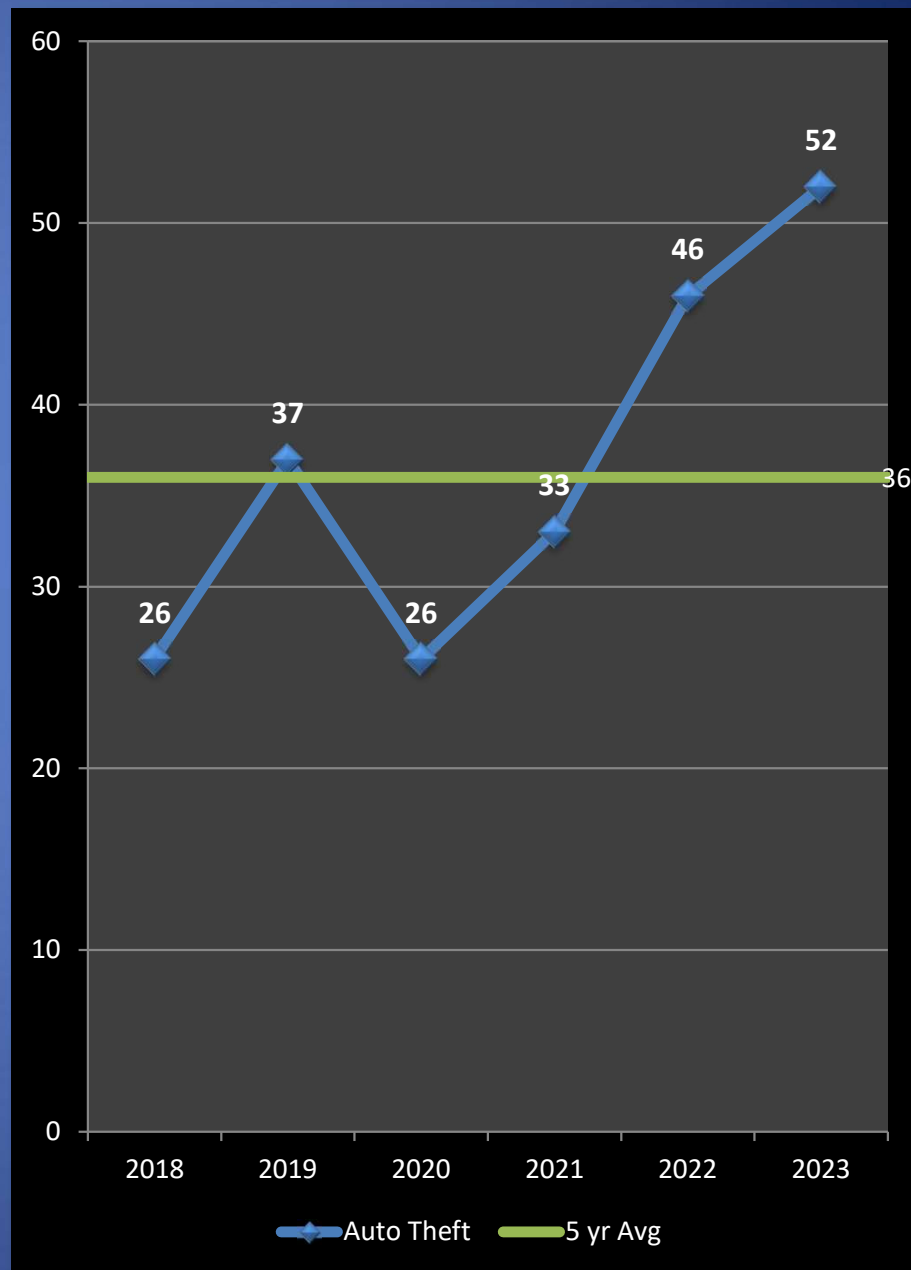
+44%

Previous Year

+13%

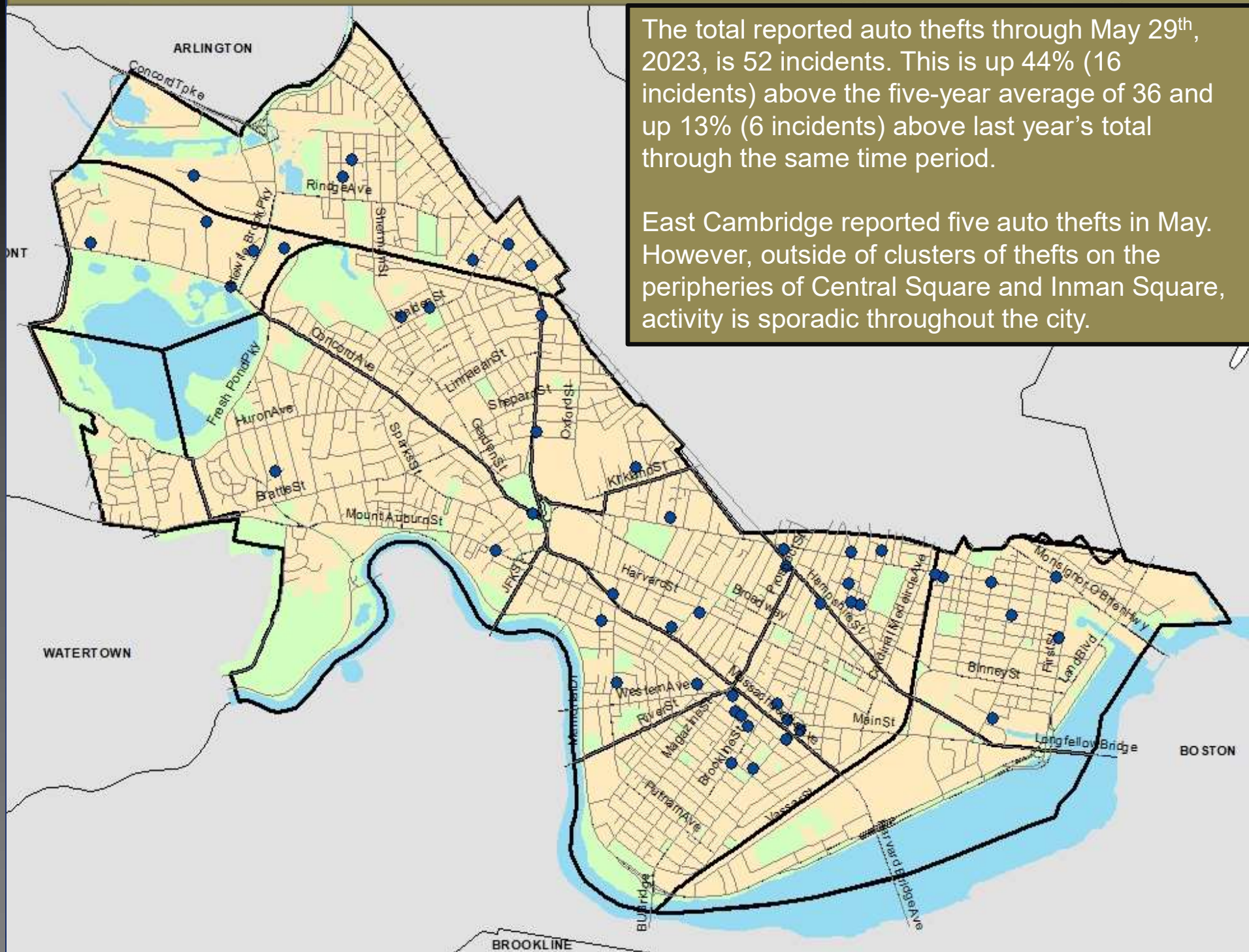
5-Year Average

+44%





Geographic Breakdown of Auto Theft: 1.1.23 – 5.29.23





Help Prevent Crime

And keep yourself informed!

To receive information from the CPD:

- Sign up with for the **Cambridge Alert Network**, to receive alerts about emerging crime patterns, neighborhood meetings, and crime prevention tips, by visiting www.CambridgeMa.gov/AlertNetwork.
- “Like” the Cambridge Police Department on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CambridgePolice
- Follow [@CambridgePolice](https://twitter.com/CambridgePolice) on Twitter.
- Visit our website at www.CambridgePolice.org for valuable information and reports including the Daily Log and BridgeStat, which is published on the first Friday of every month.
- Download our “MyPD” smartphone app at www.CambridgePolice.org/MyPD.

To Share Information with the CPD:

- Call our Non-Emergency Telephone Number at **617-349-3300**.
 - Every call for service generates a police response, so help drive our resources by reporting things that seem suspicious or out of the ordinary.
- Send an Anonymous TEXT-A-TIP:
 - Send an ANONYMOUS text message to **Tip411 (847411)**. Begin your message with Tip650 and then type your message. You will receive a response from the Cambridge Police with the option to continue communicating. Please remember that this is not a replacement for 9-1-1. **If you witness an emergency situation, please call 9-1-1 immediately.**
- Send an Anonymous Crime Tip E-Mail at www.CambridgePolice.org/Tips